

## PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

1. State your full name:

Judith Ference Olson

Have you ever been known by any other name? If so, please list.

Judith Ann Ference

2. Office address (include zip code):

Suite 2420, Grant Building  
330 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Office telephone (include area code):

(412) 565-2264

Name of law firm, if associated: N/A

3. Date and place of birth:

October 19, 1957  
Pittsburgh, PA

4. Are you a naturalized citizen? If so, give date and place of naturalization:

N/A

5. Family status:

a) Are you married? If so, state the date of marriage and your spouse's full name, including maiden name, if applicable:

Yes. October 3, 1981  
James Robert Olson

- b) Have you ever been divorced? If so, state the date, the number of the case and the court:

No.

6. Have you had any military service? If so,  
a) Give dates, branch of service, rank of rate, and present status:

No. N/A

- b) Have you ever been rejected or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable? If so, give details.

No. N/A

7. List each college and law school you attended, including dates of attendance, and the degrees awarded and, if you left any institution without receiving a degree, the reason for leaving. List scholastic honors:

**Albright College**

Reading, Pennsylvania

Attended 9/75 to 12/76

Honors: Dean's List

Transferred to college closer to home

**St. Francis College (University)**

Loretto, Pennsylvania

Attended 1/77 to 5/79

Awarded Bachelor of Arts Degree (Major - Political Science; Minor - Theatre Arts)

Honors: *Magna Cum Laude* graduate; Dean's List; National Catholic Colleges and Universities Honor Society; Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Theatre Fraternity

**Duquesne University School of Law**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Attended 9/79 to 6/82

Awarded Juris Doctor Degree

Honors: *Cum Laude* graduate; Class Rank - 2; Duquesne University School of Law Scholarship (1981 and 1982 - based on grade point average); Corpus Juris Secundum Honor Recipient; Member of Law Review; Gorley Cup Trial Moot Court Finalist (awarded best advocate for trial award)

8. List all jurisdictions in which you have applied to take a bar examination, have applied for admission or have been admitted to practice. Include dates of admissions and if not admitted, give application dates and explain the outcome.

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania - Admitted 11/82  
United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania -  
Admitted 11/82  
Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit - Admitted 4/89  
Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit - Admitted 9/93  
Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit - Admitted 8/02  
United States Supreme Court - Admitted 1/89

9. Describe chronologically your law practice and experience after your graduation from law school and until you became a member of the judiciary, including:

- a) Whether you served as a clerk to a judge and, if so, the name of the judge, the court, and the dates of the period you were a clerk:
- b) Whether you practiced alone and, if so, the addresses and the dates:
- c) The dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been connected and the nature of your connection with each:
- d) Any other relevant particulars:

9/82 to 9/84 - Law Clerk to The Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr.  
United States District Court for the Western District  
of Pennsylvania  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

9/84 to 3/98 - Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Associate - 9/84 to 12/88  
Partner - 1/89 to 3/98

3/98 to 6/00 - Sweeney Metz Fox McGrann & Schermer LLC  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Partner

6/00 to 11/08 - Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Partner  
Partner-in-Charge of Litigation, Pittsburgh Office  
Chairperson of Antitrust Practice Group

10. a) What was the general character of your practice, dividing it into periods with dates if its character changed over the years?
- b) Describe your typical clients and mention the areas, if any, in which you concentrated your practice:

Since I began private practice following my clerkship with Judge Cohill, my practice was primarily in the area of complex commercial litigation, with an emphasis in directors and officers liability; securities litigation; antitrust litigation; patent and trademark litigation; RICO and fraud claims; corporate governance issues; ERISA litigation, class action litigation, and other matters. I also handled cases involving defamation claims, breach of contract claims, general business torts, white collar criminal issues and professional malpractice claims. The vast majority of my experience was handling matters in various trial courts in Pennsylvania and in state and federal courts throughout the country. In addition, I had experience handling matters before governmental agencies, such as the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and the United States Federal Trade Commission. I was also involved with numerous appeals before various appellate courts, including the Pennsylvania Superior, Commonwealth and Supreme Courts, the Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Sixth and Eighth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

My typical client was a corporate officer or director, a professional, a corporate entity or a business, although I represented individuals, non-profit entities, and others. I handled cases for both plaintiffs and defendants.

11. What judicial office do you now hold? State whether you have been appointed or elected and the dates thereto. Describe the jurisdiction of each court and any limitations thereon. Have you ever held any other judicial office? If so, please state the offices, courts and the periods of such service. Please describe the jurisdiction of each of such courts, with any limitations upon the jurisdiction of each court:

I currently serve as a judge on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. I was elected to this position in November, 2009 and took the oath of office in January, 2010. Since that time, I have decided thousands of appeals involving Constitutional law questions, statutory interpretation, criminal law issues, civil law issues, and family law issues.

From November, 2008 through December, 2009, I served as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. I was nominated to this position (in order to serve out the term of a retired judge) by Governor Edward Rendell in October, 2008. My nomination was unanimously approved by the

Pennsylvania Senate. I served in the Civil Division of the Court of Common Pleas where I heard various civil matters that exceeded the jurisdictional limit of Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars and appeals from arbitration board decisions. These matters included claims for security violations, breach of warranties, breach of contracts, landlord-tenant disputes, the application of Allegheny County tax ordinances, and other civil disputes.

12. For the last five years or portions thereof during which you have held judicial office, indicate,

a) The nature of typical matters that come before you:

Since serving on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, I have heard thousands of appeals from decisions from Courts of Common Pleas throughout the Commonwealth. These appeals involve all issues of criminal law (except appeals from death penalty cases that go directly to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court), all issues of civil law (except for cases involving governmental entities and statutes that go to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania), and all family law issues.

b) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Civil: Since serving on the Superior Court, 35-40%
2. Criminal: Since serving on the Superior Court, 40-50%
3. Other: Since serving on the Superior Court, 10-25%

c) The percentage of your time devoted to:

1. Jury: Since serving on the Superior Court, 0%. Prior to serving on the bench, 35% of time.
2. Non-jury: Since serving on the Superior Court, 0%. Prior to serving on the bench, 50% of time.
3. Appellate argument: Since serving on the Superior Court, 100%. Prior to serving on the bench, 15% of time.
4. Other: 0%

d) Five of the more significant opinions you have rendered and citations thereto if the cases were reported:

*Commonwealth v. Barton-Martin*, 5 A.3d 363 (Pa. Super. 2010), *appeal denied* 30 A.3d 486 (Pa. 2011) (Defendant's rights under the Confrontation Clauses of the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions were violated when the analyst who prepared the blood alcohol content report

was not called to testify at defendant's trial for driving under the influence.)

*Commonwealth v. Parker*, 2014 PA Super 253 (Nov. 6, 2014) (An out-of-court question can be hearsay if it includes an assertion.)

*C.M.K. v. K.E.M.*, 45 A.3d 417 (Pa. Super. 2012) (Mother's proposed move constituted relocation within the meaning of the Pennsylvania Child Custody Act.)

*Catlin v. Hamburg*, 56 A.3d 914 (Pa. Super. 2012), *appeal denied*, 39 WAL 2013 (Pa., Aug. 28, 2013) (Damages in a medical malpractice case alleging that doctor negligently performed a sterilization procedure cannot be limited to pain and suffering for a six-week postnatal period.)

*Osborne v. Lewis*, 59 A.3d 1109 (Pa. Super. 2012), *appeal denied*, 61 MAL 2013 (Pa., July 17, 2013) (Claims against defendants are barred by the seven-year statute of repose set forth in the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Act (the "MCARE Act").)

In addition to the above, a significant decision that I rendered was not an opinion but a dissenting opinion in *Bricklayers of Western Pa. Combined Funds v. Scott's Development Co.*, 41 A.3d 16 (Pa. Super. 2012), *reversed*, 90 A.3d 682 (Pa. 2014). In my dissent, I wrote that the Pennsylvania Mechanics' Lien Law of 1963 did not authorize a union's employee benefits trust fund to file a mechanics' lien claim on behalf of union members who performed work for a construction contractor. The majority opinion concluded otherwise. In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court agreed with the conclusion that I reached and reversed the majority.

13. If a substantial portion of your practice had been before administrative boards, commissions or agencies during the five years before you became a member of the judiciary, identify the boards, commissions or agencies before which you practiced and estimate percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

N/A

14. If a substantial portion of your practice had been before Appellate courts during the five years before you became a member of the judiciary, identify the Appellate Courts before which you have practiced and estimate the percentages of practice time devoted thereto:

United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit – 5%  
Pennsylvania Supreme Court – 3%

Pennsylvania Superior Court – 10%  
Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court – 3%

15. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? If so, give details, including the office involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service, giving dates:

No.

16. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? If so, give details, including dates:

I was one of the finalists selected in July 2005 by the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission appointed by Senators Specter and Santorum for a position on the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. I was subsequently interviewed by members of the White House Counsel's Office in Washington, D.C. in January 2006. In addition, I was one of five (5) finalists selected in 2002, 2003 and 2008 by the U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Committees appointed by the Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

17. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business or profession other than the practice of law or the holding of judicial or other public office? If so, give details, including dates:

No.

18. Are you now an officer or director or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprise? If so, give details, including the name of your enterprise, the nature of the business, the title or description of your position, the nature of your duties and the term of your service.

I am currently a member of the Board of Trustees of St. Francis University. My term just began in October, 2014 and is for four (4) years.

19. Have you ever been arrested, charged with or convicted of violating any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, give details. Do not include summary traffic offenses:

No.

20. Are you under any ongoing federal, state or local investigation or indictment for possible violation of a criminal statute? If so, give particulars:

No.

21. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? If so, give particulars:

No.

22. If requested, will you submit certified copies of your latest tax returns (including Federal Income Tax)?

Yes.

23. Prior to taking the bench, were you ever sued by a client? If so, give particulars:

I have never been sued by a client. However, a claim was filed by a third-party against a number of individuals and entities, including Sherif S. Abdelhak, Equitable Insurance Company, Sweeney Metz Fox McGrann & Schermer LLC ("Sweeney Metz") (my former firm), John Lewis (one of my former partners) and me, entitled *Dynoil Refining, LLC v. Sherif S. Abdelhak, et al.* in the California state court which was removed to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. In this action, Dynoil claimed that Global Trading Group, Inc. ("Global Trading"), through its president, Sherif S. Abdelhak, breached a number of contracts. As collateral for the contracts, Mr. Abdelhak pledged two life insurance policies that he received while employed with Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation ("AHERF"). It was alleged that Sweeney Metz, Mr. Lewis and I inadequately disclosed to Dynoil AHERF's interest in the life insurance policies which were pledged as collateral by Mr. Abdelhak. Neither Sweeney Metz, Mr. Lewis nor I served as counsel to Global Trading or Mr. Abdelhak with respect to the contracts with Dynoil, and we never represented Dynoil in any matter. Portions of Dynoil's case were dismissed by summary judgment. In March 2004, on the eve of trial, the case was resolved and was dismissed with prejudice.

24. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any legal proceeding? If so, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, a material witness, were named as co-conspirator or co-respondent and



any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject or in which you appeared as a witness.

See answer to No. 23. In addition, in 1983, our landlord filed a civil complaint with the District Justice of Bellevue, Pennsylvania against my husband and me in a dispute over the expenses associated with an advertisement to rent the apartment. The amount at issue was less than \$100 and the case was settled amicably.

25. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct or has any complaint against you been filed with the Court of Judicial Discipline? If so, give the particulars:

No.

26. What is the present state of your health? (If any medical condition or issue exists, you may be requested to execute a medical record authorization form as part of the interview process.)

Excellent.

27. Do any circumstances exist that would affect your ability to perform the function of the position you seek or fulfill the term of office? If so, please explain:

No.

28. Furnish as least five examples of legal articles, law review articles, briefs or other legal writings which reflect your personal work. If briefs are submitted, indicate the degree to which they represent your personal work:

See attached.

29. List all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups. List chairmanships of any committees in bar associations and professional societies and memberships on any committees which you believe to be of particular significance (e.g., judicial selection committee, disciplinary committee, grievance committee).

**Bar Associations**

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Allegheny County Bar Association

- Past member of Rules Committee
- Past member of Nominating Committee
- Past member, Federal Court Section
- Member, Civil Litigation Section

Women's Bar Association (Allegheny County and Pennsylvania)

**Legal Professional Societies**

Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County

- Board of Governors - Elected October 2007
- Federal Practice Committee
  - Chairperson - January 2007 to January 2008
  - Vice Chairperson - January 2006 to January 2007
- Long Range Planning Task Force - 2005
- Ad Hoc Court of Common Pleas Commercial Court Rules Committee - 2007

Allegheny County Bar Foundation

30. List your experiences in teaching and lecturing, including law school, continuing legal education, both for the legal community and the judiciary, and to non-legal audiences.

Multiple seminars to County Bar Associations regarding Pennsylvania Appellate Practice and Procedures – 2010-2014 -- Attorneys

Presentation to Pennsylvania Professional Women on Women in the Law – May, 2013 – Professional Women

Presentation to Pennsylvania Mutual Insurance Commission regarding Pennsylvania court system – Spring, 2010 – Business People and Attorneys

PBA Seminar on Automobile Litigation - mid-1980s - Attorneys

Seminars on Proving Damages in Commercial Cases - 1997 and 1998 - CPAs and Attorneys

ACBA Seminar of Securities Law - 1997 - Attorneys

Seminar on Effective Cross-Examination - April 2001- Attorneys

Seminar on a Primer on the Fundamental Aspects of Sales Law in Pennsylvania - 2003 and 2004 - Attorneys and Small Business Owners (done in part in conjunction with the Duquesne University Entrepreneur Program)

Seminar on Duties and Responsibilities of Directors and Officers of Private and Non-Profit Corporations - May 2004 - Attorneys (done in conjunction with Smith Evans Carrier, financial consultants)

PBA Seminar on Ethical Considerations for Depositions - Fall 2004 - Attorneys

PBI Seminar on Taking and Defending Depositions - February 2005 - Attorneys

ACBA and PBA Seminar on Handling Professional Life and Personal Life -

Numerous times in 2007 – Attorneys

Seminar on E-Discovery Issues – April 2007 – Attorneys and Airport Executives  
Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, Annual Federal Practice  
Seminar (Moderator) - December 2007 - Attorneys  
Lorman Seminar on Taking and Defending Depositions - December 2007 -  
Attorneys  
Seminar on Insurance Issues for Airport Authorities – April 2008 – Attorneys and  
Airport Executives

31. List all organizations other than bar associations, professional associations or societies of which you are or have been a member, including civic, charitable, religious, education, social or fraternal organizations:

**St. Francis University**

2014-Present – Member of Board of Trustees

**North Hills High School**

2014-Present – Law and Government Program Mentor

**Passavant Hospital**

6/2014-9/2014 – Member of Board of Directors

**American Heart Association, National**

2006- 2010 - Member of Board of Directors

2007-2010 - Member, Audit Committee

**American Heart Association, Great Rivers (formerly  
Pennsylvania/Delaware) Affiliate**

1998-2000 - Member of Development Committee

2003-2007 - Member of Board of Directors

2003-2005 - Member of Business & Corporate Operations Committee

**American Heart Association, Allegheny Division**

1996-2014 - Member of Board of Directors

1996-1998 - Chairman of Development Committee

2000-2002 - Secretary to the Board of Directors

2002- 2004 - Vice President of Board of Directors

2002-2004 - Co-Chairman of Pediatrics Committee

2004-2006 - President of Board of Directors

2005 - Chair of Heart Ball Gala

**Career Literacy for African American Youths (CLAAAY)**

2005-2006 - Mentor

**Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh**

2000-2002 - Co-Chairman of Children's Challenge Campaign

2003-2005 - Member of Children's Challenge Campaign Steering

Committee

2001-2008 - Member of Family Forum  
2004-2008 - Member of Ethics Committee  
2007-2008 - Member of Pandemic Flu Ethics Task Force  
Past Member of Parents Advisory Committee to Heart Center

**Diocese of Pittsburgh**

2007-2012 - Member of Bishop David Zubik's Pastoral Council

**Operation Good Neighbor Foundation**

2004- 2006 - Member of Board of Advisors

**St. Alexis School**

2005 - Member of Parents Development Committee

**Sts. John and Paul Catholic Church**

1999-2001 - Vice President of Pastoral Council  
2001-2006 - President of Pastoral Council  
2001- 2008 - Member of Pastoral Council  
2004-2007 - Member of Steering Committee

**Pittsburgh Athletic Association (Past Member)**

32. List any honors, prizes, awards or other forms of recognition which you have received (including any indication of academic distinction in college or law school) other than those mentioned in answers to the foregoing questions.

See Answer to question no. 7. In addition:

American Heart Association - Volunteer of the Year (1999)  
Community Champion (1999)  
"AV" rating from Martindale-Hubbell  
Member of Leadership Pittsburgh XX (2003-2004)  
Noted by *Law & Politics Magazine* as a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer"  
for business litigation (2004 through 2008) and one of the top 50 female  
lawyers statewide (2004)  
Induction into the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County (by  
invitation only) (2004)  
Finalist selected by the Federal Judicial Nominating Commission for a position on  
the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania  
(July 2005)  
Finalist selected by the U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Committee for  
position as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of  
Pennsylvania (2002, 2003 and 2008)  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP first Community Service Award Recipient  
(2008)

“Highly Recommended” rating from the Allegheny County Bar Association for a position on the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (2008)

“Highly Recommended” rating from the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission for a position on the Pennsylvania Superior Court (2009)

“Highly Recommended” rating from the Allegheny County Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee for a position on the Pennsylvania Superior Court (2009)

North Hills School District Distinguished Alumni Award (2011)

33. State any other information which may reflect positively or adversely on you or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for an election/retention to an Appellate Court of Pennsylvania.

I believe that my professional career to date would be a great foundation to serve as a Justice on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. My entire career has been in the realm of litigation -- working as a law clerk, an advocate, an arbitrator, a trial judge, and now as an appellate judge. I have had the extraordinary opportunity to be involved in very significant cases over my career. I worked with some of the most accomplished members of both the plaintiff and defense bars and have appeared before many experienced judges.

As a practitioner, I experienced the practical problems that private practice lawyers face in this challenging legal environment. On a daily basis, private practitioners confront and deal with issues involving time management, client relations, lack of civility among lawyers, business generation, etc. As a partner in major law firms, I dealt with practical business issues such as personnel issues, preparing and meeting budgets, financial issues, etc. I am familiar with these challenges and this practical experience would assist me as a justice on the Supreme Court as the members of our High Court are responsible for the oversight and management of the state court system.

Just as important, however, I believe that I have had life experiences that would help me in carrying out the duties of a Supreme Court Justice. I have had the privilege of volunteering my services for a number of non-profit organizations and have had the opportunity to meet and work with many people on challenging issues. Most importantly, I have juggled a full-time career with my family life. As a mother of two children, one of whom has health problems and special needs, I have learned patience, reasonableness, compromise, determination and fairness, all necessary qualities for a judge to possess.

34. Why do you wish to become a Justice or Judge? What special strengths do you feel you possess that would particularly qualify you for the position of Justice or Judge?

See answer to No. 33. In addition, Judge Cohill was a wonderful role model and my desire to hold judicial office began within weeks of working with him. Since the time that I was honored to serve as Judge Cohill's law clerk, I learned to appreciate the role of the courts. While in private practice, I served as an advocate; however, I always enjoyed the role of the neutral observer who considers both sides of an issue and applies the law to render a decision. A judicial officer is a student of the law and I truly appreciate that aspect of the legal profession. I also enjoy legal writing and a position as an appellate judge affords me the opportunity to research and write. In addition, I believe that my practical business experience gives me the tools necessary to carry out the administrative duties and responsibilities of the Supreme Court justices. Finally, I believe that it is critical to restore the Pennsylvania citizens' faith in the judiciary. Throughout my life, I have striven to show respect, to be fair, and to act with integrity and honesty. I believe that these characteristics are vital to a member of the court as justice can never be achieved without integrity.

35. Did you sign the PBA Judicial Campaign Advertising Guidelines? (Please return signed pledge with complete questionnaire.)

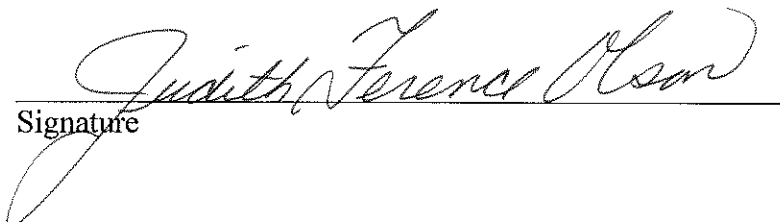
Yes.

#### **CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

The undersigned certifies that all of the statements made in this questionnaire are true, complete and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

Judith Ference Olson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type or print name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

January 12, 2015